

The apparatus in accordance with claim 1, wherein said flexible mass includes an air pocket.

[c8]

Apparatus for enlarging soft living tissue comprising:

a vessel having a rim defining an open end, the rim being adapted to encompass the tissue;

a source of vacuum connected to the vessel; and

a flexible mass secured to the rim to distribute the forces exerted by said vacuum, thereby acting as a seal and force distributor between the vessel and the tissue adjacent the rim of said vessel.

[c9]

The apparatus in accordance with claim 8 wherein the flexible mass comprises a gasket.

[c10]

The apparatus in accordance with claim 9 wherein the gasket comprises an inflated bladder.

[c11]

The apparatus in accordance with claim 8 wherein the flexible mass comprises a flexible cushion.

[c12]

The apparatus in accordance with claim 8 wherein the rim comprises a circumferential flange.

[c13]

An apparatus for enlarging living tissue comprising:

a vessel having an open end and adapted to encompass the tissue to be enlarged;

a source of vacuum connected to said vessel; and

a mass of elastic material affixed to the perimeter of the open end of said vessel to transform said vacuum applied to create a seal and force diffuser for the forces between the interior of the vessel and the tissue on which said vessel rests.

[c14]

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The apparatus in accordance with claim 13, wherein said vessel has a shape generally conforming to the shape of the tissue to be enlarged.

[c15]

The apparatus in accordance with claim 13, wherein said vessel has an interior volume greater than the volume of the tissue to be enlarged.

[c16]

The apparatus in accordance with claim 13, wherein said vessel has a shape which is varied to control the configuration of the resultant enlargement.

[c17]

The apparatus in accordance with claim 13, wherein said vessel is dome-shaped and open at one end to encircle the tissue to be enlarged.

[c18]

The apparatus in accordance with claim 13, wherein said vessel has an opening separate from said open end for connection to a source of vacuum.

[c19]

The apparatus in accordance with claim 13, wherein said elastic material surrounds an air pocket.

[c20]

An apparatus for enhancing living tissue comprising:

a vessel having an open end and adapted to encompass the tissue to be enlarged;

a source of vacuum connected to said vessel;

a flexible mass attached to the open end of the vessel to act as a seal and force distributor between the vessel and the tissue adjacent the periphery of said vessel.

[c21]

A method of enhancing soft living tissue comprising:

providing an apparatus comprising a vessel having a rim defining an open end and a flexible mass secured to the rim;